

NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting
January 21, 2004

A meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) was held on Wednesday, January 21, 2004, in the City of Nevada City Council Chambers, 317 Broad Street, Nevada City, California. The meeting was scheduled for 8:30 a.m.

Members Present: Kerry Arnett, Ann Guerra, Chet Krage, DeVere Mautino, Josh Susman, *Robin Sutherland, *Peter Van Zant (alternate)

Members Absent: Drew Bedwell

Staff Present: Dan Landon, Executive Director; Nancy Holman, Administrative Services Officer; Toni Perry, Administrative Assistant; Mike Woodman, Transportation Planner.

Standing Orders: Chairman Susman convened the Nevada County Transportation Commission meeting at 8:36 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: For discussion and possible action.

1. Financial Reports: December 2003

Executive Director Landon noted that the State has not allocated \$55,000 of Planning, Programming, and Monitoring (PPM) monies shown budgeted in Fund 327. The Rural Counties Task Force (RCTF) and larger metropolitan planning agencies have a proposal to go before the California Transportation Commission (CTC) on January 22nd and if it is accepted, the smaller counties, including Nevada County, will receive their PPM funds for this year. Mr. Landon stated he would keep the Commission apprised of the outcome of this event.

2. Correspondence.

No discussion on correspondence items.

3. Executive Director's Report:

- 3.1 Status of SR 49/Crestview Intersection/Interchange Project Report and Environmental Documentation

Executive Director Landon responded to Commissioner Van Zant's question why this project was shown in the Commission's Overall Work Program (OWP). NCTC staff is facilitating the development of the Project Report through stakeholder meetings and by managing a contract with the engineering consultant. The two developers, Catlin Properties, developer of South Hill Village, and Sanderson Company, developer of North Star, have agreed to fully fund the Project Report.

- 3.2 Status Report on Idaho-Maryland Road/East Main Street Roundabout Project

Executive Director Landon stated that in response to comments from Caltrans District 3, Grant Johnson, PRISM Engineering, is preparing an analysis of diverting traffic from the Idaho-Maryland/East Main Street intersection onramp down to Bennett Street offramp along the frontage

road to the South Auburn onramp. The U.C. Berkeley Institute of Transportation Studies evaluation team will review this report. The impacts of additional traffic being routed down the whole frontage road corridor to the South Auburn/Colfax Avenue/Neal Street intersection will also be examined.

4A. Caltrans District 3 - Project Status Report: Tom Brannon, Caltrans Project Manager.

Mr. Brannon reviewed the status of several projects including:

➤ Roundabout at Gold Flat Road

A public meeting is scheduled for February 19th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. to discuss this project and receive public input. This meeting will be held at the Caltrans maintenance station by the project site.

➤ SR 49 Widening Project

Mr. Brannon stated he is trying to respread the funds available to facilitate completion of the Project Approval and Environmental Documentation (PA/ED) for the entire SR 49 corridor and to fund construction of a segment in the northern portion of the corridor.

Commissioner Van Zant questioned if a resolution had been adopted by the Commission stating the preference was to start from the north end of SR 49. Commissioner Krage responded that he did not believe a vote had been taken by the Commission, but in the last six or eight months, the need to work on the north end, due to right-of-way constraints, congestion, and safety problems had been made very clear to them. The upcoming adoption of the 2004 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) will provide an opportunity for the Commission to take formal action on the project.

*Robin Sutherland arrived at 8:58 a.m.

*Peter Van Zant left the meeting at 8:58 a.m.

4B. SR 49 at La Barr Meadows Road Update: Ann Marie Robinson, Caltrans Planner.

Ann Marie Robinson gave a presentation on what has been done regarding improvements at the La Barr Meadows Road/SR 49 intersection:

- ✓ Caltrans maintenance division will provide additional 55 mph signs for the La Barr Meadows Road/SR 49 area.
- ✓ A speed survey will be done. However, due to state law and enforcement issues, reducing the speed limit to 45 mph is not a viable option.
- ✓ The CHP is going to deploy a special enforcement unit.
- ✓ Wayne Raley, who works with the CHP, is developing a driver's education class to work with residents of the mobile home parks in the area. He will advise residents that a left hand turn is one of the most dangerous traffic movements. Bill Derrick, Manager of the Nevada County Transit Services Division, will provide information on using the Gold Country Stage as an alternative to driving.
- ✓ Caltrans is still reviewing restricting left turn movements.
- ✓ The La Barr Meadows Road intersection cannot be put in the State Highway Operations and Protection Program (SHOPP) because accident concentration is not high enough to trigger safety funds, and there are no funds available to program operational improvements.

In response to Commissioner Krage's question why SHOPP funds could not be used at the La Barr Meadows Road intersection, Mr. Landon explained that SHOPP money has to be programmed for a project that will correct identified problems. Given the design at La Barr Meadows Road and SR 49, there isn't a project that will fit within the SHOPP funds that will correct the accidents occurring. The Pekolee SHOPP project involves shoulder widening which has been shown to correct the type of accidents that occur in that area. The Highway 20 SHOPP project corrects an alignment which has been shown to reduce the accidents on that highway segment. Other than widening the highway and installing a signal, there is no "minor" project that will reduce the type of accidents that occur near the La Barr Meadows Road/SR 49 intersection.

CONSENT ITEMS:

5. NCTC Minutes: December 17, 2003. *Approved*
6. Nevada County Transit Services Division Request NCTC's Approval of Certifications and Assurances for their 2002/03 FY FTA 5311 Grant Application Package in the amount of \$157,362. *Adopted Resolution 04-01.*
7. Truckee's Trails and Bikeways Master Plan: *Adopted Resolution 04-02.*
8. 2002/03 FY Fiscal and Compliance Audits: *Commissioner Krage pulled from consent.*

Commissioner Arnett made a motion to approve consent items 5, 6, and 7. Commissioner Sutherland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Susman remarked that the Truckee's *Trails and Bikeways Master Plan* was a four-year effort unanimously embraced by the community and was a plan Truckee was proud of.

Commissioner Krage stated he pulled Item 8 from Consent because page 17 in the audit of the County of Nevada Transportation Fund had a statement that was incorrect. Executive Director Landon read a letter of explanation from the Commission's auditor, Bartig, Basler, and Ray, and a corrected page 17 was distributed to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Krage motioned to approve Consent Item 8 accepting the 2002/03 FY Fiscal and Compliance audits with the revised page 17 of the Nevada County Transportation audit. Commissioner Arnett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

9. Election of Officers

Executive Director Landon stated the Commission could select a Chair and Vice Chair now or wait for the County's at-large appointments.

After a brief discussion, the Commission decided to go ahead with the selection of a Chair and Vice Chair. Commissioner Sutherland nominated Commissioner Bedwell for Chair. There was no second for the nomination. Commissioner Krage nominated Commissioner Arnett. Commissioner Guerra seconded the nomination. The nomination for Commissioner Arnett to be Chair was unanimously approved.

Chairman Susman stated he appreciated working with his fellow Commissioners and being the Chair during a difficult and eventful year.

Commissioner Arnett, as the newly elected Chair, requested nominations for Vice Chair.

Commissioner Guerra nominated Commissioner Krage for Vice Chair, recognizing that his appointment on the Commission may end. No further nominations were presented. Commissioner Susman seconded the nomination. The nomination for Commissioner Krage to be Vice Chair was unanimously approved.

10. Annual Transit Needs Assessment

Executive Director Landon stated that the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) reviewed the Transit Needs Assessment and had provided a recommendation to the Nevada County Transportation Commission that maintaining the current level of transit and paratransit services in western Nevada County, within the constraints of the funding available, was an unmet transit need that was reasonable to meet for FY 2003/04. Mr. Landon recommended adoption of Resolution 04-03 supporting this finding.

Bill Derrick provided an explanation for the recommendation. He stated that the level of service for both transit and paratransit was higher than was anticipated for the available funds, and that maintaining service at the current level was possibly going to require using some, if not all, of the Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds available.

Harriet McKay, a member of the SSTAC, stated that when SSTAC met last Friday, the attending members were in agreement with the recommendation and as a citizen, she supported it as well.

Commissioner Krage stated it had not been clear to him if the resolution included eastern Nevada County's unmet transit needs and had suggested to staff yesterday that additional wording be added to the resolution to address this issue. Executive Director Landon then read the additional wording staff had included in the resolution: "Based on the definitions of "unmet transit needs" and "reasonable to meet" and the analysis contained in the Nevada County Transit Needs Assessment FY 2003/04, the Nevada County Transportation Commission finds that there are no unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet in eastern Nevada County".

Commissioner Susman made a motion to approve Resolution 04-03 as amended. Commissioner Krage seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Letter Regarding Designation of Western Nevada County as a Separate Non-Attainment Area from the Sacramento Region Under US EPA 8-Hour Ozone Standards

Executive Director Landon gave an overview of this issue stating that Nevada County is scheduled to be designated as a non-attainment area under the Federal 8-hour ozone standards in April 2004. Two years ago, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) sent recommendations to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), that based on EPA's criteria, Nevada County should be designated as a separate non-attainment area. In December 2003, Governor Schwarzenegger received a letter from the EPA indicating they were going to modify the CARB proposal and include Nevada County along with Mariposa, Tuolumne, Amador, and Calaveras Counties into the adjacent metropolitan non-attainment areas. Mr. Landon pointed out that Nevada County contributes a very small amount of traffic into the Sacramento metropolitan area and that Nevada County's elevation and geography separates it from Sacramento. He asked the Commission to support the letter that Nevada County be recognized as a separate non-attainment area.

A Commission discussion ensued regarding potential political contacts, requesting other agencies, government officials and representatives to send letters, and providing sufficient information to the public for their response.

Commissioner Susman made a motion to authorize the Commission to send the letter stating the position that western Nevada County be designated as a separate non-attainment area from the Sacramento region. Commission Guerra seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None.

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, February 18, 2004 at 8:30 a.m., at the Nevada County Board of Supervisors Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Commissioner Krage made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Sutherland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Arnett adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Nancy D. Holman, Administrative Services Officer

Approved on: _____

By: _____
Kerry Arnett, Chairman
Nevada County Transportation Commission